THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) Changes in Labour Laws are a continuous process, which is undertaken taking into account the economic environment and the interests of stakeholders. Labour Laws apply uniformly to all establishments including those having Foreign Direct Investment.

Amendments in Trade Union Act

3446. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in several States the trade unions do not get registered even after completion of all formalities for several months;

(b) the number of such pending cases in different States in the country;

(c) whether Government is considering the proposal to make necessary amendments in the Indian Trade Unions Act to ensure registration of trade union automatically after completion of all formalities;

(d) if so, when it is likely to be done; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Although the Trade Unions Act, 1926, is a Central Act, it is administered by the State Governments. The State Governments, being the appropriate Government, are empowered to deal with grievances related to registration of trade unions.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

Increase in Labour productivity after 1991

3447. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether work pressure and labour productivity increased in India after 1991;

(b) if so, the sector-wise and year-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that along with the work pressure the occupational diseases among the workers also on increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Primary data on work pressure is not compiled by the Planning Commission nor by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Trend of Labour productivity in India measured in terms of growth (percentage) in real G.D.P. per person has not increased as per the report on APO: Asia Pacific Productivity Data and Analysis-2004.

(b) and (c) No such data is maintained by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Threat of asbestosis to workers

3448. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the threat of asbestosis looms large over the workers working in Alang shipbreaking yard;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the ship containing asbestos, an environmentally hazardous substances which causes a chronic lung ailment asbestosis to those who are exposed to it besides polluting the environment; and

(c) if so, whether Government have made any investigations to find out whether the shipbreaking industry adheres to safety and environmental norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Ships that come for breaking may contain asbestos as insultation material. Asbestosis is caused due to air borne asbestos only. This air-borne asbestos, if beyond the permissible limit, may cause asbestosis.

(c) Ministry of Environment and Forests have constituted a Committee of Technical Experts to examine issues relating to ship breaking. The Committee has started its work.